

Functional Assistance Visit Personal Property

April 5 - 9, 2010



Humboldt – Del Norte Unit (CAL FIRE)

*USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region 5*

Prepared by Penny Beale

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I. INTRODUCTION

This Functional Assistance Visit (FAV) was a team effort of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Humboldt-Del Norte Unit (HUU) and the USDA Forest Service (FS) to manage Federal Excess Personal Property under the Cooperative Fire Protection (CFP) Program.

The overall administration of the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) was reviewed including the use, management, accountability, and disposal of FEPP. The FEPP FAV visit was conducted April 5 - 9, 2010. Information from the visit is contained in this report.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Humboldt Del Norte Unit (HUU) is remotely located representing the most northern Unit along the California coastline. The Unit extends north to south approximately 180 miles and inland approximately 50 miles. This encompasses 1,941,991 acres of state responsibility lands and 1,963,581 of direct protection area. Approximately 70% of these lands are zoned for timber production and another 10% are recreation areas. Several watersheds exist within the lands including the Smith, Klamath, Mad, Trinity, Van Duzen, Mattole and Eel Rivers. Humboldt and Del Norte counties are home to not only the world's tallest living trees, but also the largest remaining stands of old growth coast redwood. Many of these stands are protected in parks and recreational areas. These include 11 State Parks, 20 County parks and beaches, Redwood National Park, United States Forest Service (USFS) Six Rivers National Forest and the newly acquired Headwaters Forest. The livelihood of these counties is dependent on the resources the land itself has to offer both in the form of timber production and recreation.

The Unit is culturally diverse as well. Twelve tribal agencies reside within the unit including the Hoopa, which boasts the largest Native American reservation in California. The Yurok, Wiyot, Karuk and Tolowa are some of the other tribes that are represented within the area.

In the HUU area there are three Conservation Camps, Alder Camp, Eel River Camp and the High Rock Camp. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is currently authorized to operate 39 Conservation Camps statewide that house more than 4,300 inmates and wards. These camps are operated in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Division of Juvenile Justice. Through these cooperative efforts CAL FIRE is authorized to operate 196 fire crews year-round. These crews also referred to as hand crews, are available to respond to all types of emergencies including wildfires, floods, search and rescue. Fire crews perform more than 2.5 million hours of emergency response work each year.

Within Del Norte County, there are 9 total agencies that provide fire service. They are dispersed among 5 Fire Protection Districts, 2 of which do not levee assessment fees for services (Klamath and Gasquet), Crescent City Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest (USFS) and Redwood National Park (NPS). Each has its own fire service area. Mutual aid agreements are common among neighboring fire organizations to assist one another in responding to fire and other emergencies. Some rural areas of Del Norte County is not within any fire response area for structural protection, even though

they have wildfire protection. USFS provides wildfire protection on Forest Service lands. CAL FIRE provides wild land fire protection on the rest of the lands designated as State Responsibility Area (SRA), unless it is provided by local fire organizations.

Within Humboldt County, there are 42 total agencies that provide fire service. They are dispersed among 16 Fire Protection Districts, six community service districts, sixteen Volunteer Fire Departments, several Special Districts, the City of Eureka Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the US Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest (USFS). Each has its own fire service area. Mutual aid agreements are common among neighboring fire organizations to assist one another in responding to fire and other emergencies. Some rural areas of Humboldt County are not within any fire response area for structural protection, even though they have wildfire protection. USFS provides wildfire protection on Forest Service Lands. CAL FIRE provides wild land fire protection on the rest of the lands designates as State Responsibility Area (SRA), unless it is provided by a local fire organization. In addition, CAL FIRE's Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Chief serves as the Humboldt County Fire Warden to assist with inspections and arson investigations.

In the southwest portion of Trinity County which is included within the boundaries of HUU, there are a total of 8 total agencies that provide fire service. They are dispersed among 6 Volunteer Fire Departments, the California Department of Forestry, and the US Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest. Each has its own fire service area. Mutual aid agreements are common among neighboring fire organizations to assist one another in responding to fire and other emergencies. Some rural areas of Trinity County are not within any fire response area for structural protection, even though they have wildfire protection. USFS provides wildfire protection on Forest Service lands. CAL FIRE provides wild land fire protection on the rest of the lands designated as State Responsibility Area (SRA), unless it is provided by local fire organizations.

HUU has 56 pieces of FEPP property. The majority of FEPP property is rolling stock. The HUU FEPP property totals about \$969,618 in acquisition cost. During this visit, a total of 20 FEPP items were inventoried.

II. PURPOSE OF VISIT

The United States Forest Service (USFS) is authorized to loan property to state foresters under cooperative agreements (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, PL 95-313). The Forest Service also retains ownership of the property and must account for the property by regular inventory. The first component of the review process is designed to identify areas of weakness in the program. Because the FEPP program is a cooperative program, identifying shortfalls is an important component of the review process. The second component of the review process is to develop an action plan to correct weaknesses. Setting realistic completion dates to make corrections and establishing a follow-up process is part of the action plan. The last component in the review process is identifying the commendable actions or processes that keep the FEPP program active and productive.

III. REVIEW TEAM

During each FEPP visit, state and federal employees who work with FEPP are invited to participate as members of the review team. The FS and CAL FIRE review team members were:

Penny Beale, Property Management Officer, USFS – Vallejo, CA

Cynthia Sanderson, Property Management Specialist, USFS - Vallejo, CA

Barbara Rowe, Manager FEPP, CALFIRE, – Sacramento, CA

Alicia Hastings, FEPP Analyst, CALFIRE – Sacramento, CA

Velma Bermudez, FEPP Analyst, CALFIRE – Sacramento, CA

IV. ENTRANCE CONFERENCE

The entrance conference was held at the HUU conference room in Fortuna, California. Team Leader, Penny Beale, advised those present of the purpose, scope, and objectives of the review. In addition to the FEPP review team members, the entrance briefing was attended by HUU Unit Chief Michael Howe and CAL FIRE Forestry Logistics Officer (FLO) Lisa Jensen.

V. COMMENDATIONS

Chief Howe and staff are to be commended for their continued support to the HUU Units. It is obvious from this visit that the Units are interested in the FEPP program.

HUU was a great host and prepared for the visit.

It was evident from this visit that HUU units that were visited have done a good job of labeling their FEPP equipment. FEPP tags were present on all but a few items inventoried. In addition, FEPP tags were in visible locations and easy to find.

Lisa Jensen is making the effort to update records in FEPMIS when discrepancies are discovered and reporting excess property in a timely manner. Lisa has general knowledge of the FEPP program and knows the location and other pertinent information about FEPP equipment on loan to HUU.

All FEPP items inventoried at these locations were in good condition.

VI. COMMENTS

All FEPP property that was inventoried is being used appropriately and well maintained.

HUU is in compliance with federal regulations.

Excess property items are being reported in a timely manner and there are no bone yards. A few items inventoried had incorrect serial numbers and were missing model and model year information in FEPMIS. A few items inventoried were not in the locations shown in FEPMIS. A few FEPP property items were observed as being temporarily stored outside. All vehicles inspected were insured and used according to FEPP regulations.

VII. EXIT CONFERENCE

The exit conference was held at headquarters conference room in Fortuna, CA. Team Leader Penny Beale presented a review of the findings and made suggestions and recommendations.

Program Review Summary

Physical inspection was made of 20 pieces of excess property located at 8 locations.

VIII. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Finding: There is a definite need for more FEPP property in the HUU units. Every unit visited expressed the need for more FEPP equipment.

Recommendation: HUU could further assist the VFDs if more time was permitted to screen and obtain more property. HUU would benefit from the VFDs having more FEPP equipment. VFDs having more FEPP equipment would increase their first response capabilities.

Target date: Constant/ongoing

Responsibility: State Agency

2. Finding: The following items have incorrect or missing Serial Number/VIN #, Description, Make, Model, Hours/Mileage and Model Year information in FEPMIS:

Generator: 1105816700	Truck Cargo: 1105836239	Truck: 1105824137
Truck: 1105824141	Truck: AG0001134024	Truck: AG0001328385

Recommendation: Correct item as necessary in FEPMIS.

Target date: April 3, 2011

Responsibility: State agency

3. Finding: Few items were not in the location shown in FEPMIS or missing Federal labels.

Truck, AG0001328186

Truck, AG0001134011

Water Tank: AG0001328207

Electric Cart: AG0001137463

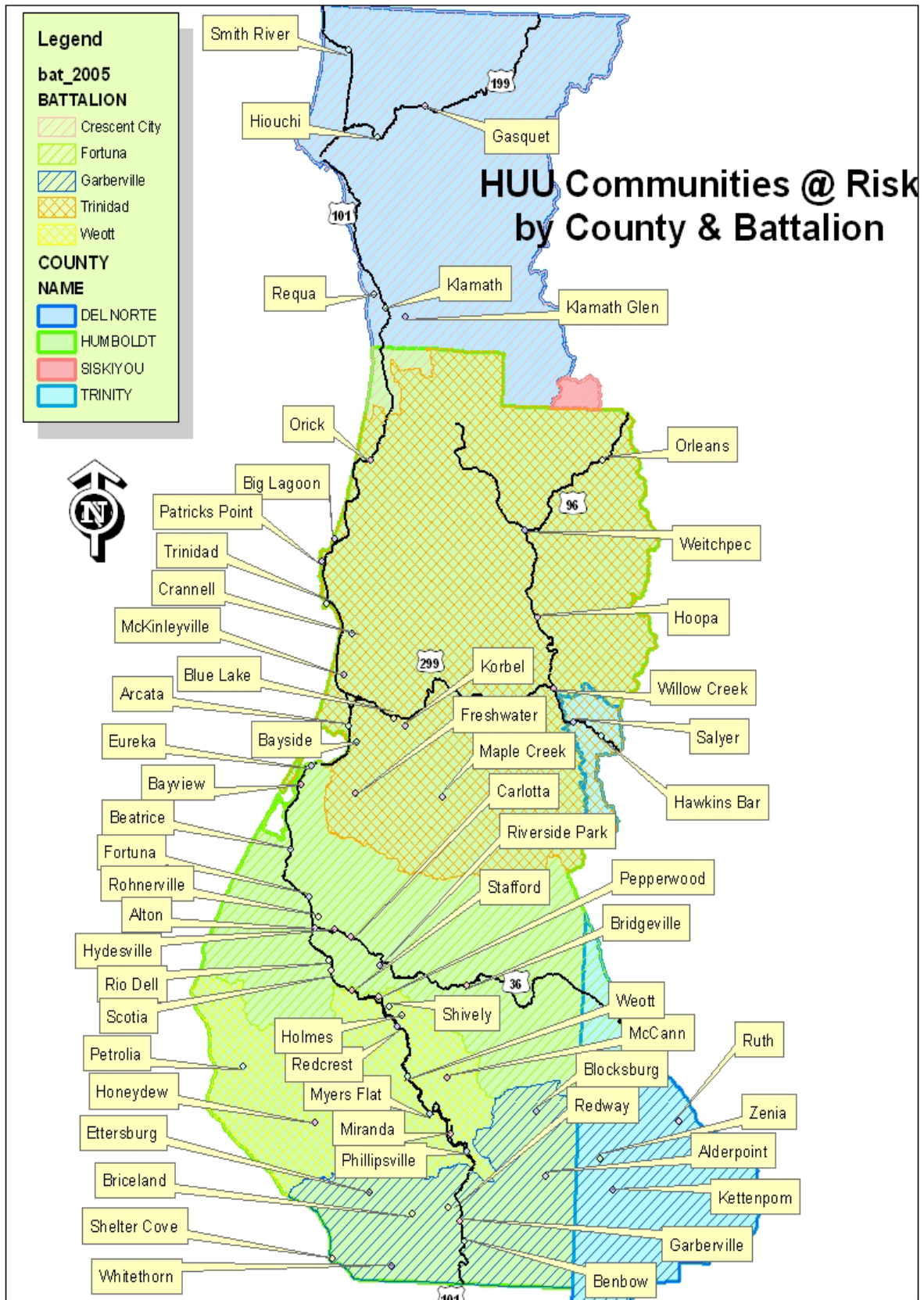
Target date: April 30, 2011

Responsibility: State agency

**FEPP Field Locations Visited Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
Inspection List
April 5 - 9, 2010**

Exhibit: A

LOCATION VISITED	VISITOR	# ITEMS INSPECTED	COMMENTS
HUU Admin	Review Team	2	Inventory worksheets stated that the equipment is located at the unit administration site. Both items had been transferred to another location. FEPMIS needs to be updated to reflect the change.
Kneeland HB	Review Team	2	AD-112's on both pieces of property. Need to verify status in FEPMIS.
Kneeland FPD	Review Team	2	Picture taken of truck for disposal. Picture of water tank taken but was not labeled, federal tag placed on property.
Eel River CC	Review Team	5	Information on generator not correct in FEPMIS, update FEPMIS. Cart location wrong in FEPMIS need to update FEPMIS to correct location.
Beginnings VFD	Review Team	2	Missing information on truck in FEPMIS need to update. AD-112 for cannibalization for truck.
Honeydew VFD	Review Team	3	Information on trucks needs to be updated in FEPMIS.
Ferndale FPD	Review Team	1	Information on truck needs to be updated in FEPMIS.
Elk Camp Station	Review Team	2	The FEPP equipment is maintained and in good condition. All equipment has FEPP tags.
Alder CC	Team Review	1	Portable building would like to excess.



Local Fire Organizations Providing Service in the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
HUMBOLDT DEL NORTE TRINITY

City Fire Dept.

Eureka Crescent City

Fire Protection Dist.

Arcata Crescent
Blue Lake Fork Dick
Ferndale Smith River
Fortuna Hiouchi
Garberville
Humboldt Fire Dist.#1
Kneeland
Loleta
Myers Flat
Petrolia
Redway
Rio Dell
Samoa Peninsula
Telegraph Ridge
Whitethorn
Willow Creek

Volunteer Fire Dept.

Briceland Gasquet Kettenpom
Fruitland Klamath Salyer
Honeydew Burnt Ranch
Korbel Hawkins Bar
Maple Creek S. Trinity
Nielson Ranch Van Duzen
Orleans
Palo Verde
Prosper Ridge
Redcrest
Salmon Creek
Scotia
Shelter Cove
Sprowl Creek
Trinidad
Westhaven
Whale Gulch

Community Services Dist.

Carlotta/Riverside

Fieldbrook

Miranda

Phillipsville

Orick

Weott

Other Special Dist.

Community Service Dist. #4, Hoopa & Yurok Fire Dept.

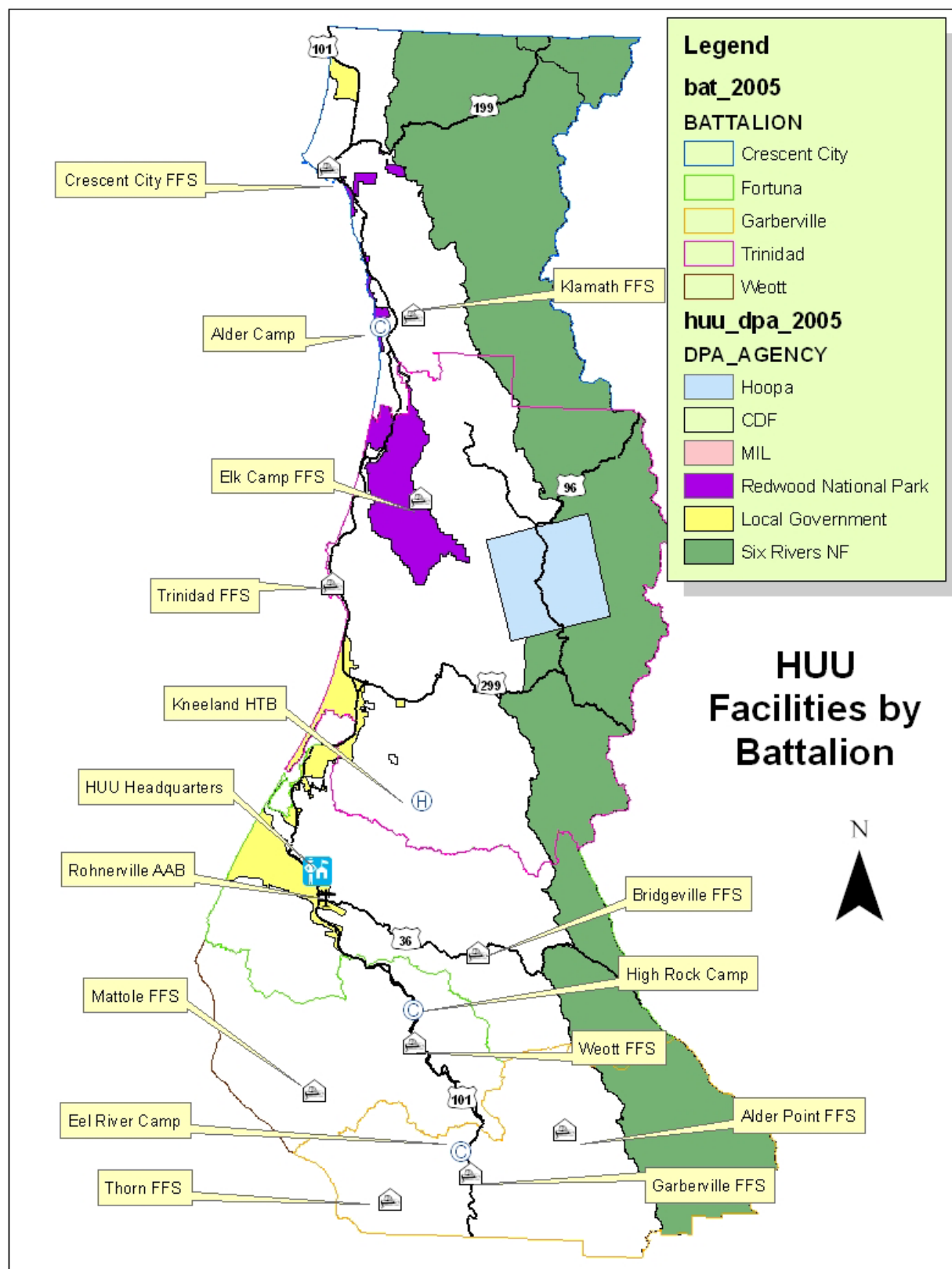


EXHIBIT: C

Agenda

Day 1: Monday, April 5, 2010

09:00AM – 14:00PM Travel to Fortuna, CA

Day 2: Tuesday, April 6, 2010

08:00AM – 5:30PM FEPP Field Site Visits – Humboldt-Del Norte Unit (Admin)
HUU Rohnerville Air Attack Base
HUU Kneeland Helitack Base & Kneeland Fire Protection District
Eel River Conservation Camp

Review Team – Penny Beale, Cindy Sanderson, Barbara Rowe, Alicia Hastings, Velma Bermudez

Day 3: Wednesday, April 7, 2010

08:00AM – 6:00PM FEPP Field Site Visits – Palo Verde Fire Dept.
Beginnings-Briceland Volunteer Fire Dept
Miranda Volunteer Fire Dept.
Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Dept.

Day 4: Thursday, April 8, 2010

08:00AM – 6:00PM FEPP Field Site Visits – Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company
Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company
Petrolia Volunteer Fire Dept.
Ferndale Fire Protection District

Day 5: Friday, April 9, 2010

08:00AM -11:45AM Round Table Discussion of FEPP Issues and Opportunities
Adjourn

12:00PM Travel to Vallejo, CA